(c) A large number of components required for the manufacture of these locomotives were imported. Finalisation of tender cases involving imports took some time. The lead time for some of the components was long and there was mismatch in the delivery schedule of different components/assemblies.

(d) There was a temporary build up inventory worth Rs. 95 crores as on 31.3.2002, which was utilized for the manufacture of these locomotives in the year 2002-03. There was no loss to the Railways on this account.

Rail tunnel through Pir Panjal

447. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways has been able to achieve an engineering breakthrough in the construction of rail tunnel through Pir Panjal to link Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country and bring Srinagar on the rail map of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the work on the project is likely to begin and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (c) The work of construction of new line from Udhampur to Baramulla is already in progress. This will involve construction of tunnel across Pir Panjal range. The construction of tunnel is likely to start during 2004-05 after necessary preparatory works. The project is targeted for completion by 15th August, 2007.

Development of East Coast Railway in Orissa

448. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that construction work of East Coast Railway in Orissa is moving at a snail pace;

(b) whether on account of lack of interest on the part of officials at the Centre, billions of rupees allocated to the Zone for construction of projects are lying unutilized and while no new projects are being implemented the old ones are yet to be completed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and action plan of Government to speed up developmental activity and fill up all the senior posts in the Zone to make it a get-going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. All sanctioned works are progressing satisfactorily.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Double-stack container trains

449. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways plan to run double-stack container trains;

(b) if so, the routes where these trains would be introduced;

(c) whether this project would be undertaken with external help; if so, details thereof; and

(d) what is the percentage of savings in haulage and waiting time under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (d) A feasibility study is in progress for the movements of double-stack containers to and from the ports on the West Coast namely Kandla, Pipavav and Mundra. The Report has not yet been submitted.

Use of old unused tracks

450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways engages in using unused tracks and narrow tracks which can be brought to use either by using them for gauge conversion projects or if they are old and rusted they can be sent for polishing for reuse;

(b) if so, the length of tracks that were used in such a manner;

(c) if not, whether Government have plans to introduce the use of old unused tracks in this manner which will eventually save the Railways crores of rupees; and